

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for high energetic ultrasonic tissue treatment in a target area inside a living body from an 5 outside surface or a body cavity of the living body comprising an ultrasound generator (101, 102), a device (21) to be applied against the skin or mucous membrane at the site of treatment, and a transducer (28) connected with the ultrasound generator to emit generated therapeutic ultrasound energy through said device, characterized in that 10 means are provided for cooling a contact surface of said device (21) to be engaged with the skin or mucous membrane and that said device (21) is made as an exchangeable product forming a heat exchange element between the device and 15 the tissue.

2. The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said device allows adjustment of the relative position of the transducer and said device to define the location of the target area to be treated, and to concentrate the therapeutic ultrasound energy emitted through said device on tissue to be 20 treated medically in the target area.

3. The apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said means for cooling the contact surface comprises means for circulating a fluid.

25 4. The apparatus as in claim 3 further comprising means for controlling the temperature of the circulating fluid.

30 5. The apparatus as in claim 3 further comprising means for measuring the temperature of said contact surface.

6. The apparatus as in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the ultrasound generator is designed to generate also diagnostic ultrasound energy to be emitted by the transducer, and further comprising a comparator (107) for comparing 35 echoes of diagnostic ultrasound energy from treated tissue in the target area with backscattered signal of either di-

agnostic or therapeutic ultrasound energy from untreated tissue.

7. The apparatus as in claim 6 wherein the comparator (107) is operatively connected with the transmitter (101, 102) to interrupt the transmission of therapeutic ultrasound energy when the echoes of backscattered signals equal a reference signal from untreated tissue.

8. The apparatus as in claim 6 or 7 further comprising a calculator (106) for calculating the thickness of the tissue between two surfaces (A, B) by means of echoes of diagnostic ultrasound energy received at said surfaces.

9.. A method for non-invasive ultrasonic wave medical treatment of tissue in a target area inside a living body from an outside surface or a body cavity of the living body comprising the steps of emitting diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound energy, defining the location of the target area by diagnostic ultrasound energy, concentrating therapeutic ultrasound energy on tissue to be treated medically in the target area, and controlling the condition of the tissue in the target area by backscattered ultrasound between therapeutic ultrasound pulses.

10. The method as in claim 9 wherein the location of the target area is defined by registering echo pulses of diagnostic ultrasound energy emitted against the tissue.

25 11. The method as in claim 9 or 10 wherein the therapeutic ultrasound energy is focused on the target area.

12. The method as in any of claims 9 to 11 wherein the therapeutic ultrasound energy is pulsed.

30 13. The method as in any of claims 9 to 12 wherein the therapeutic ultrasound energy is emitted in periods spaced by pauses.

14. The method as in claim 13 wherein the condition of the tissue in the target area is checked by the emission of diagnostic ultrasound energy in said pauses.